

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently amended) An implant for securing a suture relative to a body tissue in a patient's body, comprising:

a body portion ~~being movable through an opening in the body tissue and defining~~ having a longitudinal central axis; ~~said body portion having and~~ a maximum transverse length dimension transverse to the longitudinal central axis, ~~and said body portion having a first passage extending through said body portion transverse to the longitudinal central axis for threading the suture therethrough[[:]]; and~~

a pointed end portion ~~for piercing the body tissue being~~ connected to said body portion at a leading end of the body portion along said longitudinal central axis, said pointed end portion having a maximum ~~transverse length~~ dimension transverse to the longitudinal central axis, ~~the maximum transverse length of the pointed end portion~~ being no greater than the maximum transverse length of the body portion; said body portion and said end portion having a second passage formed therethrough transverse to the longitudinal central axis and transversing said body portion and said end portion for threading the suture therethrough.

wherein the body portion is substantially cylindrical and a trailing end, opposite the leading end has a diameter equal to the leading end diameter.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously Presented) The implant according to claim 1, wherein the pointed end portion is conical in shape.

Claims 4-9. (Cancelled)

10. (Previously Presented) The implant according to claim 1, wherein the first passage and the second passage are substantially parallel.

11. (Currently Amended) The implant according to claim 2, wherein ~~said body portion has a trailing end~~, the pointed end portion ~~forming~~ forms an opening in the body tissue in the patient's body when force is applied against said trailing end of the cylindrical body along the longitudinal central axis of the cylindrical body.

12. (Previously Presented) The implant according to claim 1, wherein said body portion is made of bone.

13. (Previously Presented) The implant according to claim 12, wherein the bone is allogenic bone.

14. (Previously Presented) The implant according to claim 12, wherein the bone is autogenic bone.

15. (Previously Presented) The implant according to claim 12, wherein the bone is xenogenic bone.

16. (Previously Presented) The implant according to claim 12, wherein the bone is cortical bone.

17. (Previously Presented) The implant according to claim 1, wherein said body portion is formed of a single piece of freeze dried bone.

18. (Previously Presented) The implant according to claim 1, wherein said body portion is made of material selected from the group consisting of a metal, a metal alloy, biodegradable material, and bioerodible material.

19. (Previously Presented) The implant according to claim 1, wherein the body tissue is soft tissue.

20. (Previously Presented) The implant according to claim 1, wherein the body tissue is bone.

21. (Previously Presented) The implant according to claim 1, wherein:

said pointed end portion is a substantially conical end portion having a central axis which is coincident with the longitudinal central axis of the body portion;

the body portion and said substantially conical end portion are made of bone; the implant being rotatable when a suture is threaded through said first passage and said second passage and the suture is tensioned.

Claims 22-23. (Cancelled)

24. (Previously Presented) An implant assembly for securing a suture relative to body tissue in a patient's body, comprising:

a cylindrical body portion having a longitudinal central axis and a maximum transverse length transverse to the longitudinal central axis;

a pointed end portion for piercing the body tissue, said pointed end portion extending from said cylindrical body portion and having a central axis being disposed coincidently with the longitudinal central axis of the cylindrical body and having a maximum transverse length transverse to the longitudinal central axis no greater than the maximum transverse length of the cylindrical body portion, said pointed end portion being more rigid than the body tissue;

said cylindrical body portion having a first passage formed therein, said first passage being proximate said pointed end and extending through the cylindrical body in a direction transverse to the longitudinal central axis of the cylindrical body;

said cylindrical body portion having a second passage extending therethrough in a direction transverse to the longitudinal central axis of the cylindrical body;

a suture extending through the first and second passages, said suture tensionable; and

a retainer having a first configuration in which the retainer is freely slidable along the suture and a second configuration in which the retainer is secured and connected to the suture for maintaining tension in the suture.

25. (Previously Presented) The assembly according to claim 24, wherein the retainer is made of a material that becomes flowable when ultrasonic vibratory energy is applied.

26. (Previously Presented) The implant of claim 21, wherein the conical end portion forms an opening in bone in the patient's body.

27. (Cancelled)

28. (Previously Presented) The implant of claim 24, wherein a force distribution member is disposed between the retainer and the body tissue.

29. (Cancelled)

30. (Currently Amended) An implant for securing a suture to body tissue, comprising:  
an anchor including a body portion for moving through the body tissue and a pointed portion for piercing the body tissue;

said body portion having a longitudinal central axis and a maximum transverse length transverse to the longitudinal central axis;

said pointed portion being connected to said body portion along said longitudinal central axis and having a maximum transverse length transverse to the longitudinal central axis;

said anchor having a passage formed therethrough for receiving the suture, wherein the maximum transverse length of the pointed portion is ~~no greater~~ less than the maximum transverse length of the body portion,

wherein said passage is formed in said body portion and said pointed portion.

31. (Previously Presented) The implant according to claim 30, wherein said passage extends through said anchor at an acute angle to said longitudinal central axis.

32. (Cancelled).

33. (Previously Presented) The implant according to claim 30, wherein said anchor has a further passage formed therethrough.

34. (Previously Presented) The implant according to claim 33, wherein said passage and said further passage are orthogonal to said longitudinal central axis and said passage and said further passage are parallel.

35. (Cancelled).

36. (Previously Presented) The implant according to claim 30, wherein said pointed portion is more rigid than the body tissue.

37. (Cancelled)

38. (Previously Presented) The implant assembly according to claim 37, further comprising a retainer for maintaining tension in said suture, said retainer being freely slidable along said

suture in a first configuration and said retainer being secured and connected to said suture in a second configuration.

39. (Previously Presented) The implant assembly according to claim 38, wherein said retainer is flowable when ultrasonic vibratory energy is applied thereto.

40. (Previously Presented) An implant assembly for fastening body tissue, comprising:  
the implant according to claim 33; and

a suture having two ends and being threaded through said passage and said further passage, said suture tilting said implant relative to said longitudinal central axis when said ends are tensioned.

41. (New) An implant for securing a suture relative to a body tissue in a patient's body, comprising:

a body portion movable through a bore in body tissue, the bore defining a longitudinal bore axis, said body portion having a first passage extending therethrough, said body portion having a smooth exterior surface free of projections thereby promoting toggling of said body portion after said body portion has been moved through the bore; and

a tapering end portion extending from said body portion at a leading end of the body portion, said tapering end portion thereby adapted to promote movement of said implant through the bore in body tissue;

said implant having a second passage formed within a transition between said body portion and a beginning of said tapering of said tapering end portion, whereby an elongated object may be connected through said second passage to extend through the bore, and wherein a tension applied to the elongated object is thereby operative to promote toggling of said implant in the body tissue;

wherein a suture passed through said first passage may be tensioned, whereby a tension upon the suture promotes a transverse orientation of the implant relative to a longitudinal bore axis, and whereby the suture is secured relative to the body tissue in the patient's body.